

By supporting House Resolution 868, we can send a clear message to our women in the military and to our women veterans in all areas that your service is not forgotten, that we honor and respect you and that we appreciate your courage, your patriotism, and your sacrifice. Today, we recognize that service.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, it has really been an honor to present this resolution today.

I was recalling the trip that we last made to Kandahar, Afghanistan. We had an opportunity to meet with about 40-plus, maybe 50, women there in all of the different services, just asking them about why they were there and about why they joined the service. The kind of work they were doing was truly inspiring; and, of course, they always wanted to tell us about their children, who were at home.

These women are providing a tremendous service to our country. We honor them, and I certainly encourage and know that all of my colleagues will be supporting this resolution.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my support for H. Res. 868 and to request that the following exchange of letters regarding this resolution be included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, October 28, 2009.

Hon. IKE SKELTON,
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services, House
of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: On October 23, 2009, H. Res. 868, "Honoring and recognizing the service and achievements of current and former female members of the Armed Forces," was introduced in the House of Representatives. This measure was sequentially referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs recognizes the importance of H. Res. 868 and the need to move this resolution expeditiously in order to honor the current and former female members of the Armed Forces. Therefore, while we have valid jurisdictional claims to this resolution, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs will waive further consideration of H. Res. 868. The Committee does so with the understanding that by waiving further consideration of this resolution it does not waive any future jurisdictional claims over similar measures.

I would appreciate the inclusion of this letter and a copy of your response in the Congressional Record during consideration of H. Res. 868 on the House floor.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES,
Washington, DC, November 2, 2009.

Hon. BOB FILNER,
Chairman, House Committee on Veterans' Affairs,
Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you for your letter regarding House Resolution 868, "Honoring and recognizing the service and achievements of current and former female members of the Armed Forces." This measure

was referred to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

I agree that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs has certain valid jurisdictional claims to this resolution, and I appreciate your decision to waive further consideration of H. Res. 868 in the interest of expediting consideration of this important measure. I agree that by agreeing to waive further consideration, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs is not waiving its jurisdictional claims over similar measures in the future.

During consideration of this measure on the House floor, I will ask that this exchange of letters be included in the Congressional Record.

Very truly yours,

IKE SKELTON,
Chairman.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise before you today in support of H. Res. 868, "Honoring and recognizing the service and achievements of current and former female members of the Armed Forces." I would like to thank my colleague, Representative DAVIS, for introducing this resolution.

As a member of the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues I think that it is important to recognize our sisters in uniform. Today over 350,000 women serving in the Armed Forces make up approximately 15 percent of active duty personnel, 15 percent of Reserves, and 17 percent of the National Guard. Women are often overlooked and underappreciated in the military even though women are and have historically been an important part of all United States war efforts, voluntarily serving in every military conflict in United States history since the Revolutionary War.

The first American woman soldier was Deborah Sampson of Massachusetts. She enlisted as a Continental Army soldier under the name of "Robert Shurtliff." She served for 3 years in the Revolutionary War and was wounded twice; she cut a musket ball out of her own thigh so no doctor would find out she was a woman. Finally, at the end of the hostilities her secret was discovered—even so, George Washington gave her an honorable discharge. She later lectured on her experiences and became a champion of women's rights.

The Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps was established in the United States in 1941. However, political pressures stalled the attempts to create more roles for women in the American Armed Forces. Women saw combat during World War II, first as nurses in the Pearl Harbor attacks on December 7, 1941. The Woman's Naval Reserve and Marine Corps Women's Reserve were also created during this conflict. In July 1943 a bill was signed removing "auxiliary" from the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, making it an official part of the regular army. In 1944 the Women's Army Corps, WAC, arrived in the Pacific and landed in Normandy on D-day. During the war, 67 Army nurses and 16 Navy nurses were captured and spent 3 years as Japanese prisoners of war. There were more than 350,000 American women who served during World War II and 16 were killed in action; in total, they gained over 1,500 medals, citations, and commendations.

Women are now playing an increasingly important role in America's military forces; more

than 185,000 women have been deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom, and other missions since 2001.

Today, women can serve on American combat ships, including in command roles. Female enlisted members and officers can hold staff positions in every branch of the Army except infantry and armor, although they can in fact serve on the staffs of infantry and armor units at division level and above, and be members of Special Operations Forces. Women can fly military aircraft and make up 2 percent of all pilots in the U.S. military.

However, women are still limited solely due to gender. Women are not permitted to serve on submarines or to participate in Special Forces programs such as Navy SEALs. Women enlisted soldiers are barred from serving in Infantry, Special Forces, Artillery, Armor, and Air Defense Artillery. So far the positions closest to combat open to women in the U.S. Army are in the Military Police, where women operate machine-guns on armored Humvees, guarding truck convoys. Although Army regulations bar women from infantry assignments, some female MPs are detailed to accompany male infantry units to handle search and interrogation of Iraqi suspects.

I urge my colleagues and all Americans to honor and recognize the service and achievements of current and former female members of the Armed Forces. Over 350 servicewomen have given their lives for the Nation in combat zones since World War I, and more than 85 have been held as prisoners of war; 34,000 women served in World War I, 350,000 served in World War II, 120,000 served in the Korean war, over 7,000 served in the Vietnam war, and more than 41,000 served in the first gulf war.

Madam Speaker, the women of America's military, past and present, have served their Nation in times of peace and war, at great personal sacrifice for both themselves and their families. I hope that this Congress will recognize the service and achievements of women in the military.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 868.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING FIRST UNITED STATES AIR FORCE ACADEMY GRADUATION CLASS ON ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution

(H. Con. Res. 139) congratulating the first graduating class of the United States Air Force Academy on their 50th graduation anniversary and recognizing their contributions to the Nation, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 139

Whereas, on April 1, 1954, President Dwight D. Eisenhower signed legislation establishing the United States Air Force Academy to prepare young men for careers as Air Force officers;

Whereas, on July 11, 1955, the first class entered the Air Force Academy, attending classes in temporary facilities at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver, Colorado;

Whereas the Air Force Academy moved to its permanent home near Colorado Springs, Colorado, in August 1958;

Whereas the first class of 207 cadets graduated June 3, 1959, at the Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado;

Whereas in 1964, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed legislation authorizing each of the Service Academies to expand enrollment from 2,529 to 4,417 students, and today, over 4,000 cadets attend the Air Force Academy;

Whereas 50 classes and more than 41,000 cadets have graduated from the Air Force Academy in its 54-year history;

Whereas the mission of the Air Force Academy is to educate, train, and inspire outstanding young men and women to become Air Force officers of character and to prepare and motivate them to lead the Air Force in its service to the Nation;

Whereas the Air Force Academy is recognized worldwide as the premier developer of air, space, and cyberspace officers and leaders with impeccable character and knowledge; and

Whereas, June 3, 2009, marks the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of the Air Force Academy: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) congratulates the 207 graduates (157 surviving as of April 2009) of the first United States Air Force Academy class on the 50th anniversary of their graduation;

(2) acknowledges the continued excellence of the United States Air Force Academy and its critical role in the defense of the United States; and

(3) recognizes the outstanding service to the Nation that graduates from the United States Air Force Academy have provided.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) and the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 139, con-

gratulating the first graduating class of the United States Air Force Academy on their 50th graduation anniversary and recognizing their many contributions to our Nation.

I thank my colleague, Mr. LAMBORN of Colorado, for introducing this measure.

According to Forbes Magazine, the United States Air Force Academy is among the most selective public colleges in the United States. It is among only five colleges with a special mission of educating, training and inspiring young men and women in the military to serve as officers of character and preparing and motivating them to lead in its service to our great Nation. As such, the Air Force Academy has developed a strong reputation that distinguishes itself for consistently producing America's future leaders both in military service and in our society.

The youngest of the five United States service academies, the United States Air Force Academy has produced excellent officers. Since opening its doors in 1955, the academy has produced over 41,000 cadets, which includes 495 general officers, 35 Rhodes Scholars, 10 Marshall Scholars, 13 Harry S. Truman Scholars, 116 Kennedy School of Government Scholars, 92 Guggenheim Fellows, and 32 Gearhart scholarships to study in France.

Additionally, academy graduates have served in every major military conflict since the Vietnam War with the highest level of integrity and honor and, at times, paying the ultimate price in service to America, as 172 graduates have been killed in combat and another 36 were repatriated prisoners of war. Two graduates are combat aces, and one is a Medal of Honor recipient.

Their contributions to every industry and component of American life has been significant: 34 astronauts, the second highest number of astronauts of any higher learning institution, are Air Force Academy graduates. There are Olympic gold medal winners, NFL Super Bowl championship winners, and CEOs and presidents of Fortune 500 corporations. Truly, the United States Air Force Academy produces professional officers who have the knowledge, the character and the motivation which make them leaders in our military and in other aspects of society.

House Concurrent Resolution 139 is our way, as the United States Congress, of recognizing the exemplary service and contributions made by the United States Air Force Academy to the Air Force and to our Nation. This resolution also commends the first graduating class of the United States Air Force on their 50th anniversary and on their significant contributions to shaping the Air Force Academy and the Air Force to the excellence it is known for today.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the United States Air Force Academy.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LAMBORN. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of House Concurrent Resolution 139, and I thank the gentlewoman from California for her kind and supportive remarks. Like me, she is a member of the Armed Services Committee, and I enjoy serving with her on that committee.

Madam Speaker, I introduced this resolution on June 3 of this year. That date was significant because the resolution celebrates the 50th anniversary of the first graduating class of the United States Air Force Academy.

Of the 306 men who entered the newly created Air Force Academy on July 11, 1955, 207 completed the grueling coursework and the transition to military life; 205 graduates were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Air Force; one was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps; and one graduate was medically disqualified.

The class included one football Academic All-American, Brock Strom. The academy's top graduate, Lieutenant General (now retired) Bradley C. Hosmer, went on to study at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar—the first of 35 Rhodes Scholars who graduated from the academy.

The class of '59 spent its first 3 years in refurbished World War II barracks at Lowry Air Force Base in Denver. The upperclassmen were stand-ins—active duty Air Force officers, some who had graduated from other military academies. The cadet uniforms and the campus in Colorado Springs were still works in progress. By graduation day, June 3 of 1959, the academy had earned full academic accreditation.

Ninety percent of the graduates entered pilot training and were already certified pilots in fighter and bomber aircraft during the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis. The remainder became navigators or pursued other Air Force specialties. During the Cold War, they saw action in the Southeast Asia theater and in the Vietnam war, and they served in major commands of the day, including strategic air command, tactical air command and military airlift command.

Since that historic day in 1959, members of the class went on to serve with distinction, as has been noted already, as astronaut, general, Thunderbird pilot, CEO, doctor, farmer, entrepreneur, commander of major commands, and vice chief of staff of the Air Force.

Sixty-five percent of that graduating class served until retirement. Many of them went on to second careers in fields including defense, finance, management, education, and religion. Fifteen graduates' impressive careers culminated in being selected as general officers with three members achieving the rank of four-star general. When Secretary of the Air Force James Douglas, Jr., awarded the diplomas in 1959, he applauded the advances in science and technology that the new graduates would embrace and explore.

The Colorado Springs campus was chosen as the ideal site of the Air

Force Academy because of its unlimited training opportunities and majestic beauty.

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The famous aviator Charles Lindbergh, a member of the site selection committee, even rented a small plane and confirmed the area was fit for flight training.

Additionally, business leaders of Colorado Springs met with local ranchers who owned the land along the Rampart Range north of town. Most agreed to sell if the site were chosen. In tribute to Colorado's strong military commitment, State leaders offered \$1 million to be put towards the purchase of the present day 18,500-acre campus, an investment that continues to yield immeasurable returns to our Nation.

The Class of '59 created traditions and set high standards for the 41,000 cadets to date who have followed. I am honored to represent the United States Air Force Academy in my district, and I personally congratulate all the living members of the Class of '59 for their 50 years of service to our great Nation, both in their military and civilian successes.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of House Concurrent Resolution 139.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR).

Mr. SALAZAR. I want to thank the gentlewoman for recognizing me.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 139, a bill congratulating the first graduating class of the United States Air Force Academy on their 50th graduation anniversary. I want to commend my colleague the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN) for introducing this resolution.

The Air Force Academy is located just a few miles from my district, the Third Congressional District, in my home State of Colorado. Since its creation after being signed into law on April 1, 1954, by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, the Air Force Academy has not only stood as an integral training ground for our Nation's officer corps, but is recognized nationally as a pillar of education.

Since the swearing in of the 306 young men who made up the first class, many of our Nation's best and brightest have started their careers in the Air Force Academy. Each year around this time I receive applications from students across my district looking for recommendations to attend the Academy. I am proud to lend my support to hard-working students from the Third Congressional District of Colorado who are looking to advance their education while also serving their Nation. Today's cadets enthusiastically hope to follow in the steps of their predecessors who we are honoring today.

Madam Speaker, I encourage Members on both sides of the aisle to support this measure, and congratulate those who took the first step as part of the initial graduating class 50 years ago.

Once again, I commend the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. LAMBORN).

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and friend from Colorado for his kind and supportive remarks.

At this time, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to my friend, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. WAMP).

Mr. WAMP. Madam Speaker, I thank all of the authors and supporters of this resolution, but I come as any Member of the House of Representatives could come, because we all have the distinct privilege of nominating and then appointing great Americans to all of our service academies. So, literally, today all 435 of us could come and tell stories of great young people who commit to serve their country in a very meaningful way that we have had the privilege of nominating and appointing to the United States Air Force Academy or the other service academies.

But I come today in support of this resolution honoring the United States Air Force Academy because a year-and-a-half ago, in February of 2008, I had the distinct privilege and one of my highest privileges in my 15 years of service of being the keynote speaker at National Character Day at the United States Air Force Academy.

When you fly in to Colorado Springs and you are able to go and be greeted there in the way that you are and have dinner with them, and then go into Arnold Auditorium and you are able to present to 2,800 cadets in their dress blues at the United States Air Force Academy, it will raise the hair on the back of your neck because it is such an exhilarating and inspirational experience.

But something happened during the hour that I spent with them that I want to share with the House today. It was supernatural, in a way, but it speaks to the culture, the commitment of those cadets at the United States Air Force Academy, and in doing so honors this 50th anniversary of the first graduating class at the United States Air Force Academy.

They did not know that I committed John Stuart Mill's quote to memory, nor did I know that they all have to commit John Stuart Mill's quote to memory. So in the course of my address, I began to say, War is an ugly thing, but not the ugliest of things. The decayed and degraded state of moral and patriotic feeling which thinks that nothing is worth war is much worse. A person who has nothing for which they are willing to fight, nothing they care more about than their personal safety, is a miserable creature who has no chance of ever being free unless those very freedoms

are made and kept by better persons than themselves.

I was saying that so that they would understand that the people, the better persons than themselves that John Stuart Mill was talking about, is those 2,800 cadets and all those that came before them. What I didn't know is they all have to memorize it. So I was no more than about six words into it and it became a chorus of 2,801 persons together quoting John Stuart Mill's eternal quote about the value of our men and women in uniform who will stand between the threat and our civilian population and preserve our way of life, and we must remember that our very freedoms are kept by those better persons.

So, today we honor, rightly, this particular institution which has made extraordinary contributions to our way of life, our freedom, everything that we hold dear, all of our constitutional liberties. These men and women dedicate themselves to excellence and to service above and beyond all measure, and we honor every single one of them today and all of our service academies.

I commend so much this resolution to the House, and I know that we will all stand together to honor the United States Air Force Academy.

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to comment on H. Con. Res. 139, congratulating the first graduating class of the United States Air Force Academy on their 50th graduation anniversary and recognizing their contributions to the Nation.

I should start by complimenting my friend and colleague, Representative DOUG LAMBORN, for his effort to pass this resolution.

It is Colorado's honor to host the Air Force Academy. The fact that we are the home of one of our nation's premier training grounds for the best and brightest of our nation's youth is an immense point of pride to every citizen of our state. Driving down 1-25 into Colorado Springs and seeing the Academy and its famous chapel nestled in the foothills of the Rockies is always gratifying.

The 157 surviving members of the first United States Air Force Academy class, recognized today on the 50th anniversary of their graduation, were leaders not only in their own years of service to our country, but also in that they were a vanguard establishing the Air Force Academy, the city of Colorado Springs, and the State of Colorado as important and productive centers of military excellence. I am pleased we passed this resolution.

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 139, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays. The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS OF CAREER AND TECHNICAL COL- LEGES

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 880) recognizing the efforts of career and technical colleges to educate and train workers for positions in high demand industries, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 880

Whereas the Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that 15,600,000 new jobs will be added to the labor force between 2006 and 2016, with population shifts and new technologies fueling job growth;

Whereas more than 80 percent of respondents in the 2005 National Association of Manufacturers Skills Gap report indicated that they are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers;

Whereas postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education provide the real-world situations necessary to engage students and prepare them for the workforce;

Whereas postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education provide an environment where students can apply fundamental academic skills and employability skills to complex job-related problems;

Whereas postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education connections with local business leaders allow the use of workforce readiness credentials to spread from the ground up in a way that is mutually beneficial to students and employers;

Whereas 14 percent of all employers reported being a member of a career and technical education advisory committee in a Census Bureau Survey; and

Whereas employers assist postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education in developing programs that reflect the needs of industry: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the efforts of postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education to educate and train workers for positions in high-demand industries; and

(2) supports the connection postsecondary institutions offering career and technical education provide between employers and students.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days

during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous material on H. Res. 880 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. I rise today in support of H. Res. 880, which recognizes the efforts of career and technical education colleges that educate and train workers for positions in high-demand industries. This resolution supports partnerships between career and technical colleges, employers, and students so that students can be prepared to enter high demand technical fields.

Career and technical education colleges help students apply practical information learned in the classroom to employment. CTE schools serve a diverse set of students. They serve secondary students who need job skills to transition into the workplace and employees who need to upgrade their skills for new technologies. Employers work with CTE programs to hire fully competent, well-trained workers for professional technical positions.

As America has evolved from an industrial economy to a knowledge economy, the globalization of business and industry requires workers to acquire core knowledge and skills that can be applied in a wide and rapidly changing variety of work settings.

With the changing business industry, employers want more competent, skilled workers, but they are having a difficult time finding these workers. More than 80 percent of respondents in the 2005 National Association of Manufacturers Skills Gap Report indicate that employers are experiencing a shortage of qualified workers. CTEs are situated to respond rapidly to changing job market demand to prepare potential employees.

Along with CTEs, community colleges help spur the economy and provide a skilled workforce that contributes more than \$31 billion to the Nation's economy. This year, community colleges in this country will award more than 500,000 associate degrees and 270,000 associate certificates.

In September of this year, the House of Representatives passed the Student Aid and Fiscal Responsibility Act. This bill includes an unprecedented investment of \$10 billion into community colleges by encouraging partnerships between community colleges, States, businesses, job training, and adult education programs, and by creating a new competitive grant program for community colleges to improve instruction, bolster student services and implement other innovative reforms. Community colleges play an important role in career and technical education, and in many communities are leading the way in providing workforce development programs that meet the needs of local businesses.

Madam Speaker, I again wish to express my support for H. Res. 880, and I

thank Congressman CASSIDY for bringing this bill forward. I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASSIDY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 880, recognizing the efforts of post-secondary institutions offering career and technical education to educate and train workers for positions in high-demand industries.

Post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education are an incredibly valuable resource to our communities. These institutions enable adults in the community to improve their lives by furthering their education in order to improve their employability and working life. Career and technical education enables students to learn specific skills or earn a certificate or a degree that employers require or prefer.

Many institutions that offer career and technical education also have valuable connections with employers in the community. These connections allow these institutions to better serve their students. Employers in high-demand industries are able to communicate with post-secondary institutions what skills, certificates and degrees they expect potential employees to exhibit. The close relationship between post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education and employers provide students, and potential employees, with a valuable advantage.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimated that 15.6 million new jobs will be added to the labor force between 2006 and 2016. These industries and employers also benefit from the unique relationship between post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education and local business leaders. The relationship enables industries and businesses to communicate where there are experience and employment gaps and what skills they require for such positions.

Post-secondary institutions that offer career and technical education provide students and the business community with an invaluable connection.

I am honored to support this resolution, and I ask my colleagues to join me.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side, so with my gratitude to Mr. CASSIDY, I urge my colleagues to approve this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 880, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.